

Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1904

PRESENTED TO THE

Alford Urban District Council,

BY

T. EDWARD SANDALL, B.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Ninth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases.

Only one case was notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act during 1904; this was a case of Erysipelas in a person who has had several previous attacks of this disease.

This unprecedented freedom from serious Infectious Disease is most satisfactory, and speaks for itself as to the general good health of the district.

Non-notifiable Diseases.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA has been prevalent at intervals during the year, and one death was registered as directly due to this cause. The general type of the disease however is more mild than in previous years, and it has not had any appreciable bad effect on the Public Health.

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Mumps have this year been conspicuous by their absence.

The District maintains its reputation as one of the best vaccinated in the County.

The Vaccination return, for the information of the Council, is as follows:—

Total number of Births 50.

Successfully Vaccinated	-	40
Died before Vaccination	-	3
Exempt under "Conscientious" clause	-	3
Not yet 4 months of age	-	3
Removed	-	1
		—
		50
		—

In conclusion, I consider that the district has never been so free from infectious disease since its formation, as it has during the past year.

Sanitary Work.

DRAINAGE—The new system of Main Drainage has been completed, and the majority of the houses have been connected, but it is desirable that the remainder should be connected as soon as possible to complete the work. I trust that the Council will deal with this matter.

I have inspected the working of the purification system at intervals during the year, and consider it highly satisfactory.

The effluent is remarkably good, the whole of the plant is in good order, and the provisions for dealing with exceptional flow of sewage, e.g., storm-water, are complete and sufficient.

The result is that the pollution of the Wold Grift Drain, which caused a certain amount of nuisance to the inhabitants of the East End of the District, has practically ceased, and I consider the new drainage system is a benefit to the District, and will tend to further improve the Public Health.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Water supply of the District, derived from private wells is sufficient, and the artesian wells provided by the Council, as a part of the Drainage system, have improved the Public Supply.

I have analysed two samples of water, and found both fit for domestic purposes.

SCAVENGING.—The roads and paths have been kept clean, and the house refuse cleared in a satisfactory manner.

The roads in many places are still in bad condition due to disturbance of the surface by the drainage excavations.

The bye-law as to removal of snow has been practically a dead letter—the condition of the pavements during the snow-fall in November was most unsatisfactory and dangerous; I trust that the Council will deal seriously with this matter.

Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1904

PRESENTED TO THE

Alford Urban District Council,

BY

T. EDWARD SANDALL, B.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Ninth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases.

Only one case was notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act during 1904 ; this was a case of Erysipelas in a person who has had several previous attacks of this disease.

This unprecedented freedom from serious Infectious Disease is most satisfactory, and speaks for itself as to the general good health of the district.

Non-notifiable Diseases.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA has been prevalent at intervals during the year, and one death was registered as directly due to this cause. The general type of the disease however is more mild than in previous years, and it has not had any appreciable bad effect on the Public Health.

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Mumps have this year been conspicuous by their absence.

The District maintains its reputation as one of the best vaccinated in the County.

The Vaccination return, for the information of the Council, is as follows :—

Total number of Births 50.	Successfully Vaccinated	-	40
	Died before Vaccination	-	3
	Exempt under "Conscientious" clause		3
	Not yet 4 months of age	-	3
	Removed	-	1
			—
			50
			—

In conclusion, I consider that the district has never been so free from infectious disease since its formation, as it has during the past year.

Sanitary Work.

DRAINAGE—The new system of Main Drainage has been completed, and the majority of the houses have been connected, but it is desirable that the remainder should be connected as soon as possible to complete the work. I trust that the Council will deal with this matter.

I have inspected the working of the purification system at intervals during the year, and consider it highly satisfactory.

The effluent is remarkably good, the whole of the plant is in good order, and the provisions for dealing with exceptional flow of sewage, e.g., storm-water, are complete and sufficient.

The result is that the pollution of the Wold Grift Drain, which caused a certain amount of nuisance to the inhabitants of the East End of the District, has practically ceased, and I consider the new drainage system is a benefit to the District, and will tend to further improve the Public Health.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Water supply of the District, derived from private wells is sufficient, and the artesian wells provided by the Council, as a part of the Drainage system, have improved the Public Supply.

I have analysed two samples of water, and found both fit for domestic purposes.

SCAVENGING.—The roads and paths have been kept clean, and the house refuse cleared in a satisfactory manner.

The roads in many places are still in bad condition due to disturbance of the surface by the drainage excavations.

The bye-law as to removal of snow has been practically a dead letter—the condition of the pavements during the snow-fall in November was most unsatisfactory and dangerous; I trust that the Council will deal seriously with this matter.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.—Only one is licensed, which I have inspected and found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—All the registered slaughter houses have been inspected by me, and found in a satisfactory condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—All the dairies and cowsheds have been visited by me, and defects in cleanliness, remarked in one or two, have been remedied.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK PLACES.—I have inspected every Factory, Workshop, and Workplace known to me, and I can report satisfactorily on all, with regard to :—

- (a). Cleanliness,
- (b). Air-space.
- (c). Ventilation.
- (d). Drainage, where wet processes are employed.
- (e). Provision of sanitary accommodation where necessary.

The tabular statement required by the Home Office of the work done by the Medical Officer of Health under the Factory and Workshop Act 1901 is presented with this report.

BAKEHOUSES—All the Bakehouses in the District have been inspected, and conform to the Regulations.

HOME WORK.—The Register of Home Workers, supplied by employers, is very small : all work is carried out under proper sanitary conditions.

REGISTER OF WORKSHOPS—This is complete for the district to the best of my knowledge.

NUISANCES.—Two applications for abatement of nuisances have been made to me and the nuisances have been remedied on my representation without further proceedings

OVERCROWDING.—A case in Dashwood Road was brought to my notice, but was abated upon my representation without further proceedings.

Vital Statistics.

The number of Births registered was as follows :—

Males—Legitimate	23.	Females—Legitimate	25.
„ —Illegitimate	1.	„ —Illegitimate	1.
Total	24.	Total	26.

A grand total of 50, showing a Birth Rate of 20·8 per 1000, which is higher than the average rate of 18·4 per 1000 for the past seven years.

The total number of deaths registered was 48, showing a death rate of 20 per 1000, which is higher than the average rate of 15·3 per 1000 for the past seven years.

This high death rate in an exceptionally healthy district is explained by the fact that 27 out of 48 deaths, i.e., 56 per cent, were those of persons over 65 years of age, (7 persons being over 80, and 1 over 90).

The district undoubtedly suffers from the circumstance that many adolescent and middle-aged inhabitants are constantly leaving it, for employment in large towns, while the aged remain, and are to some extent, as the Poor-Law returns show, reinforced by aged poor from the surrounding villages.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 3, showing an Infantile Mortality Rate of 60 per 1000 Births Registered, much below the average rate of the last seven years.

One death was registered from Influenza and one from Epidemic Diarrhœa, showing a Zymotic Death Rate of 83 per 1000, the same as last year.

Taking into consideration the characteristics of the population I have indicated, and the other facts shewn by the statistics given, I consider that the high death rate is apparent only, and that the general Public Health of the district during the past year has been excellent, and equal to the high standard reached in previous years.

The statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. EDWARD SANDALL,

The Chantry, Alford,

Medical Officer of Health.

January 31st, 1905.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.
Name of District—ALFORD (Urban).

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middles of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rats per 1000 Births registered 6	Number.	Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894												
1895												
1st April to 31st Dec.												
1896	2660	34	17.	4	117.6	21	10.5					
1897	2624	35	13.3	5	142.9	48	18.3				21	10.5
1898	2587	53	20.5	6	113.2	40	15.5				48	18.3
1899	2551	47	18.4	5	106.3	31	12.2				40	15.5
1900	2514	47	18.7	6	127.7	38	15.1				31	12.2
1901	2478	51	20.6	6	117.6	39	15.7				38	15.1
1902	2450	43	17.5	2	46.5	27	11.				39	15.7
1903	2420	48	19.8	8	166.6	47	19.4			1	28	11.4
Averages for years 1897-1903	2518	46	18.4	5	117.2	38	15.3				47	19.4
1904	2400	50	20.8	3	60.	48	20			1	38	15.4
											48	20

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).....1079
Total Population at all ages (at Census of 1901).....2478
Number of Inhabited Houses (at Census of 1901) 642
Average Number of Persons per House (at Census of 1901) 3.8

I.	II.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
None.	Union Infirmary, Spilsby.	None.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.		

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.
Name of District—ALFORD (Urban).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District						
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria							
Membranous croup							
Erysipelas							
Scarlet Fever	1					1	
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever							
Relapsing Fever							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever							
Plague							
Totals	1					1	

Isolation Hospital. None provided.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small-pox							
Measles							
Scarlet fever							
Whooping-cough .. .							
Diphtheria and membranous croup							
Croup							
{ Typhus							
Fever { Enteric							
{ Other continued							
Epidemic influenza	1						1
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	1	1					
Enteritis							
Puerperal fever							
Erysipelas							
Other septic diseases							
Phthisis	7				1	6	
Other Tubercular diseases							
Cancer, Malignant disease	5					2	3
Bronchitis	3						3
Pneumonia	6		1		1	2	2
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs							
Alcoholism {							
Cirrhosis of Liver {	1					1	
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	1	1					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	4					2	2
Accidents	2				1	1	
Suicides	1					1	
Old Age	7						7
Cerebral diseases	5					1	4
.....							
.....							
.....							
All other causes	4	1				2	1
All causes	48	3	1	0	3	18	23

